

# MD vs. NP: A Study on Nurse Practitioner Roles and Responsibilities and their Acceptance in Our Generation

Celia A. Price

Georgia Southern University, cp03506@georgiasouthern.edu

Neysa Hobbs

Georgia Southern University, nh01402@georgiasouthern.edu

Lauren Stokes

Georgia Southern University, ls04443@georgiasouthern.edu

Anquanett Scott

Georgia Southern University, as09603@georgiasouthern.edu

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**Celia Price**  
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**Lauren Stokes**

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# *MD vs NP*

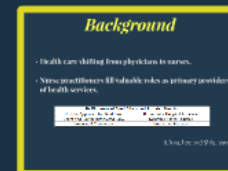
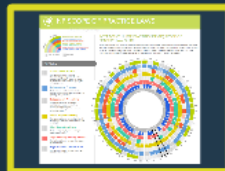
**Neysa Hobbs**  
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# *What is a nurse practitioner?*

**"A registered nurse who has acquired the expert knowledge base, complex decision-making skills and clinical competencies for expanded practice, the characteristics of which are shaped by the context and/or country in which s/he is credentialed to practice."**

(Sangster-Gormley, Martin-Misener, & Burge, 2013, pp. 1-2)







# NP SCOPE OF PRACTICE LAWS

Rectangular Snip

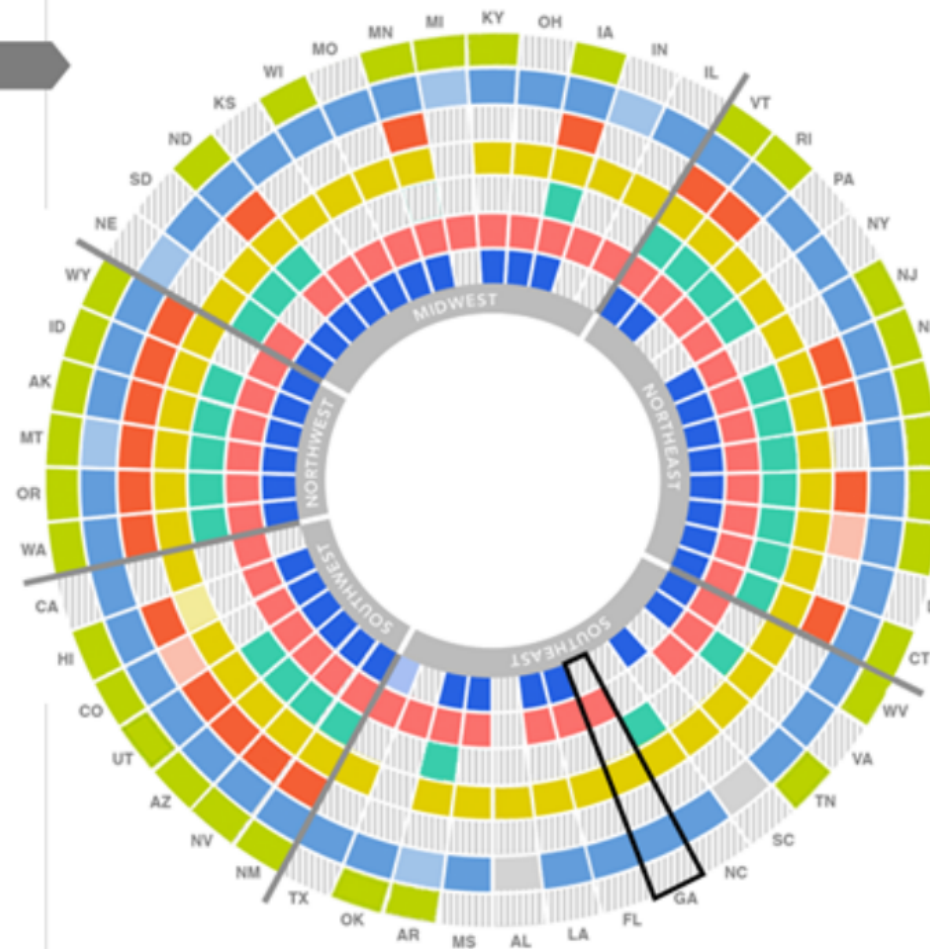


## GEORGIA

- Autonomous Practice**  
Nurse practitioners must be supervised by a physician. In some cases, physicians are required to sign nurse practitioner charts to qualify for reimbursement.
- Primary Care Provider**  
State statute and/or Administrative Code recognizes nurse practitioners as primary care providers.
- Independent Prescribing**  
Nurse practitioners must have a collaborative agreement with a physician or a physician's supervision/delegation in order to prescribe drugs.
- Order Physical Therapy**  
Nurse practitioners can make referrals for physical therapy, or a referral is not required.
- Sign Death Certificate**  
Only a licensed physician can sign death certificates.
- Sign Handicap Parking Permits**  
Nurse Practitioners can sign Handicap placard forms.
- Sign Workers' Comp Claims**  
Nurse Practitioners can't sign workers' compensation forms.

## INTERACTIVE NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP) SCOPE OF PRACTICE LAW GUIDE

Nurse practitioner (NP) scope of practice laws vary from state-to-state. Barton Associates understands that these laws may have an impact on the locum tenens nurse practitioners we place throughout the United States and put together this handy interactive guide that offers a snapshot of each state's scope of practice laws. For more information on the specific state requirements, please review each state's Nurse Practice Act.



# *Background*

- Health care shifting from physicians to nurses.
- Nurse practitioners fill valuable roles as primary providers of health services.

<b>Six Elements of Good Advanced Practice Nursing</b>	
Holistic Approach to Client Care	Community-Hospital Interface
Client and Family Integrated Care	Evidence-based Practice
Integrated Teamwork	Innovative Practice

(Chau, Lee and Shiu, 2011)

# Research Problem

## Purpose

- To explore how well the roles of nurse practitioners are perceived by our community in comparison to medical doctors
- To determine *whether* or the community has an issue nurse practitioners refer to and justify
- Gather information on the role and services of nurse practitioners
- To determine if there is a *preference* on how the community perceives a nurse practitioner or medical doctor

## Research Questions

- Do people prefer to see a nurse practitioner or a physician for medical issues and does not affect their preference?
- Are people informed about the role and scope of practice of nurse practitioners to choose them as their health care providers?

## Hypotheses

- *Null Hypothesis:*  
There is no difference in individuals choice of preference for NP or MD as their primary health care provider.
- *Alternative Hypothesis:*  
There is a difference in the preference of older generations in that they may prefer to see a MD rather than a NP due to tradition and lack of trust for such a new and currently growing field.

# *Purpose*

- Compare how well the roles of nurse practitioners are **accepted** in our community in comparison to medical doctors
- Determine **education** the community has on nurse practitioners roles and services
- Raise **awareness** on the role and services of nurse practitioners
- Determine if there is a **preference** on receiving care from a nurse practitioner or medical doctor



# *Research Questions*

**Do people prefer to see a nurse practitioner or a physician for medical issues and does age affect their preference?**

**Are people informed about the role and scope of practice of nurse practitioners to choose them as their health care providers?**

# Hypotheses

## *Null Hypothesis:*

There is no difference in individuals choice of preference for NP or MD as their primary health care provider.

## *Alternative Hypothesis:*

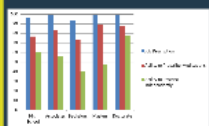
There is a difference in the preference of older generations in that they may prefer to see a MD rather than a NP due to tradition and lack of trust for such a new and currently growing field.

# *Methodology*

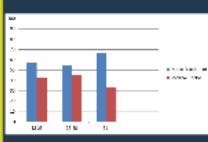
- Quantitative study
- Data collected through survey that assessed:
  - Age
  - Gender
  - Highest level of education
  - Relation to Georgia Southern School of Nursing
  - Education on NP and MD roles and services
  - Preference on NP or MD for regular check-up and emergency situation
  - Desire for more information on NP roles and services
- 244 participants
- Surveyed students, faculty and staff of Georgia Southern University
- All participants were over 18 years old
- Surveyed School of Nursing, College of Business, Department of Physics, Department of Psychology, and Department of Chemistry

# *Findings and Results*

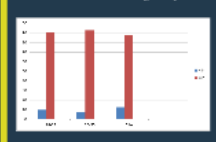
Knowledge of Nurse Practitioner Roles Based on Education Level



Preference for Routine Check-Up



Preference for Emergency Care



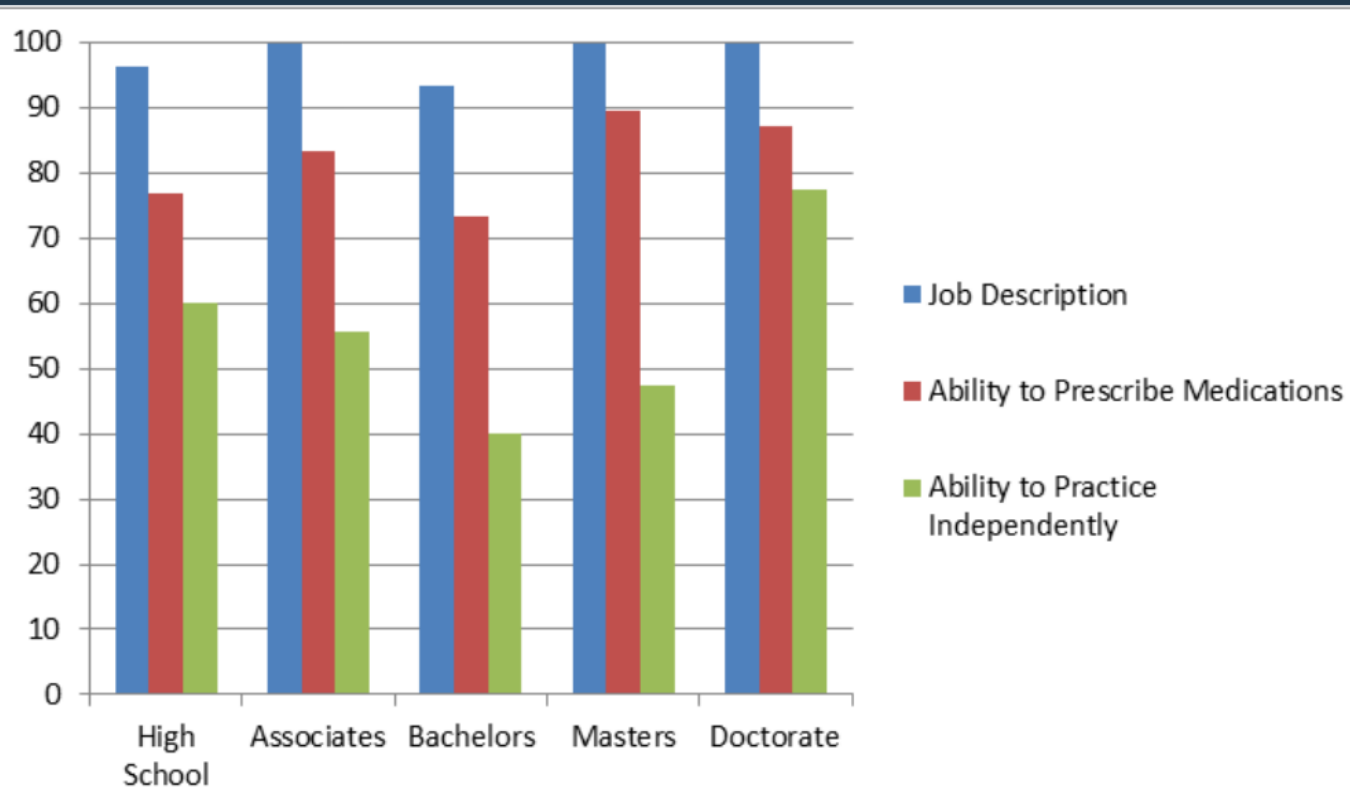
Desired Education on Nurse Practitioner Roles and Services



School of Nursing Desired Education on Nurse Practitioner Roles and Services

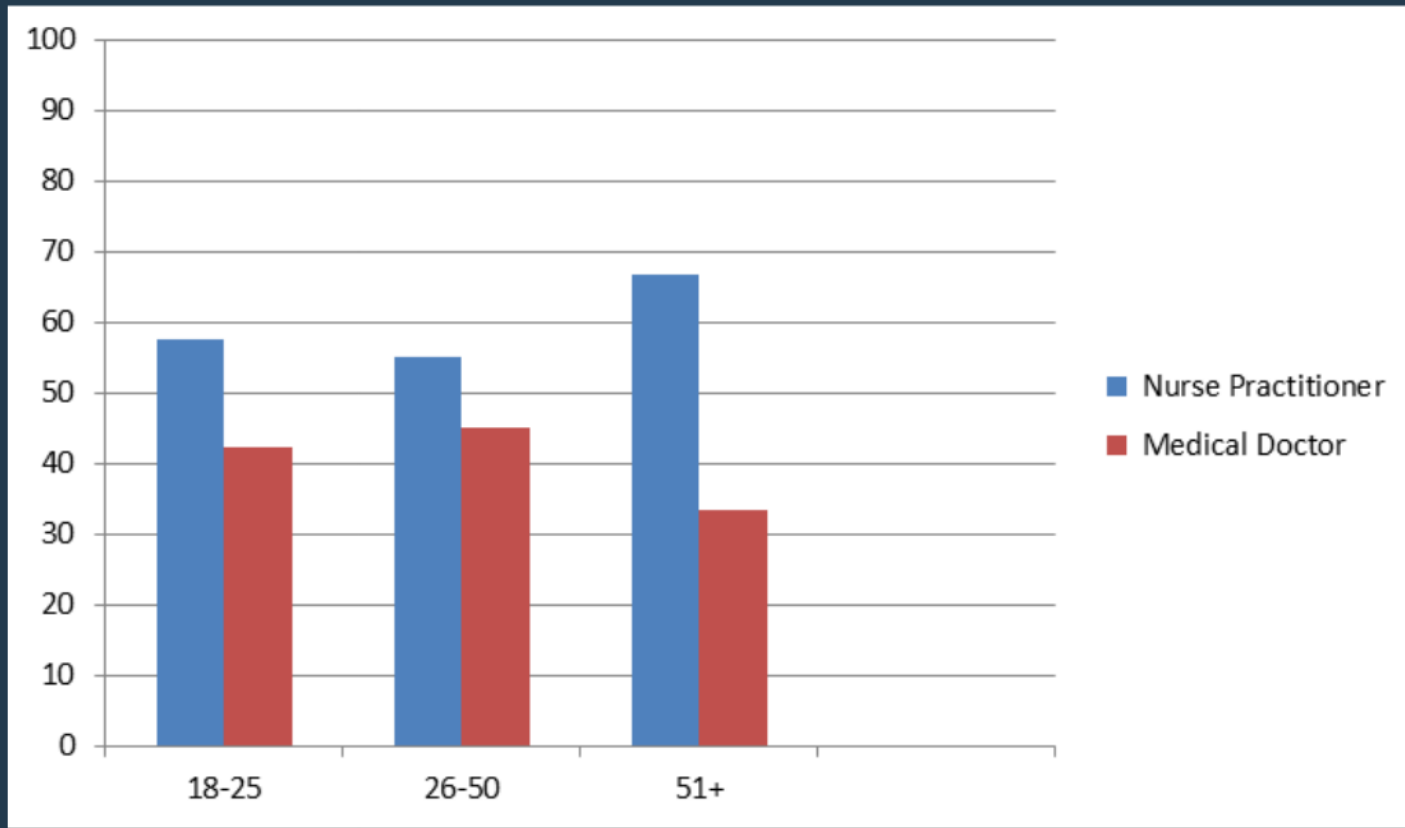


# Knowledge of Nurse Practitioner Roles Based on Education Level

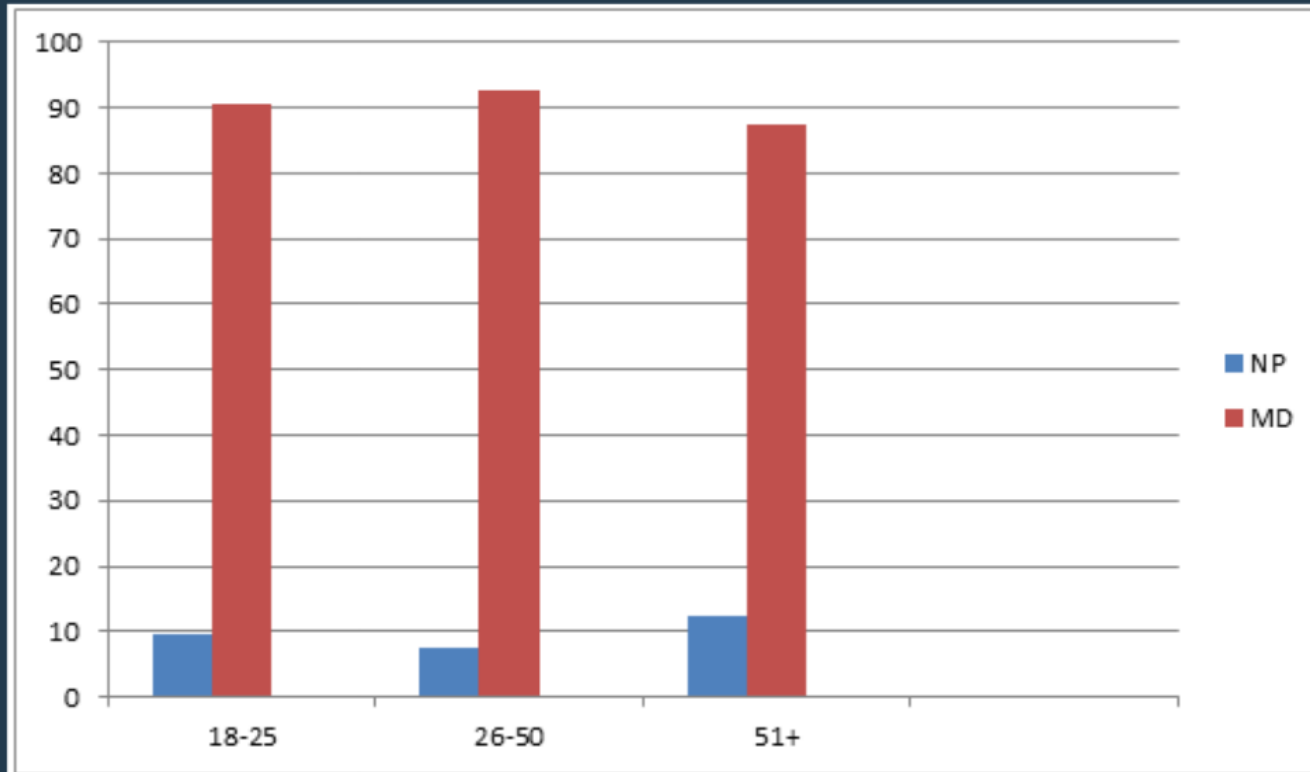




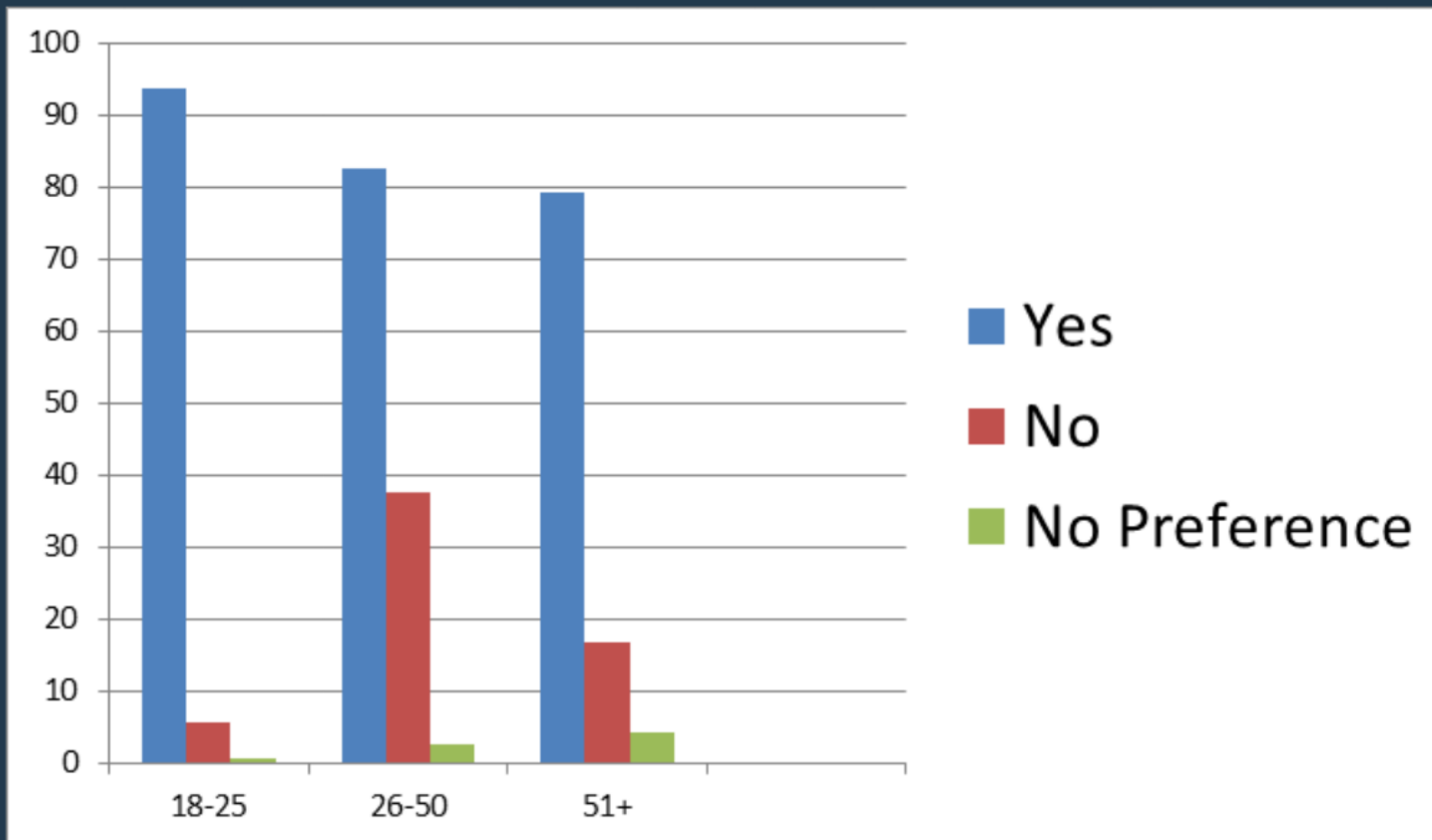
# Preference for Routine Check-Up



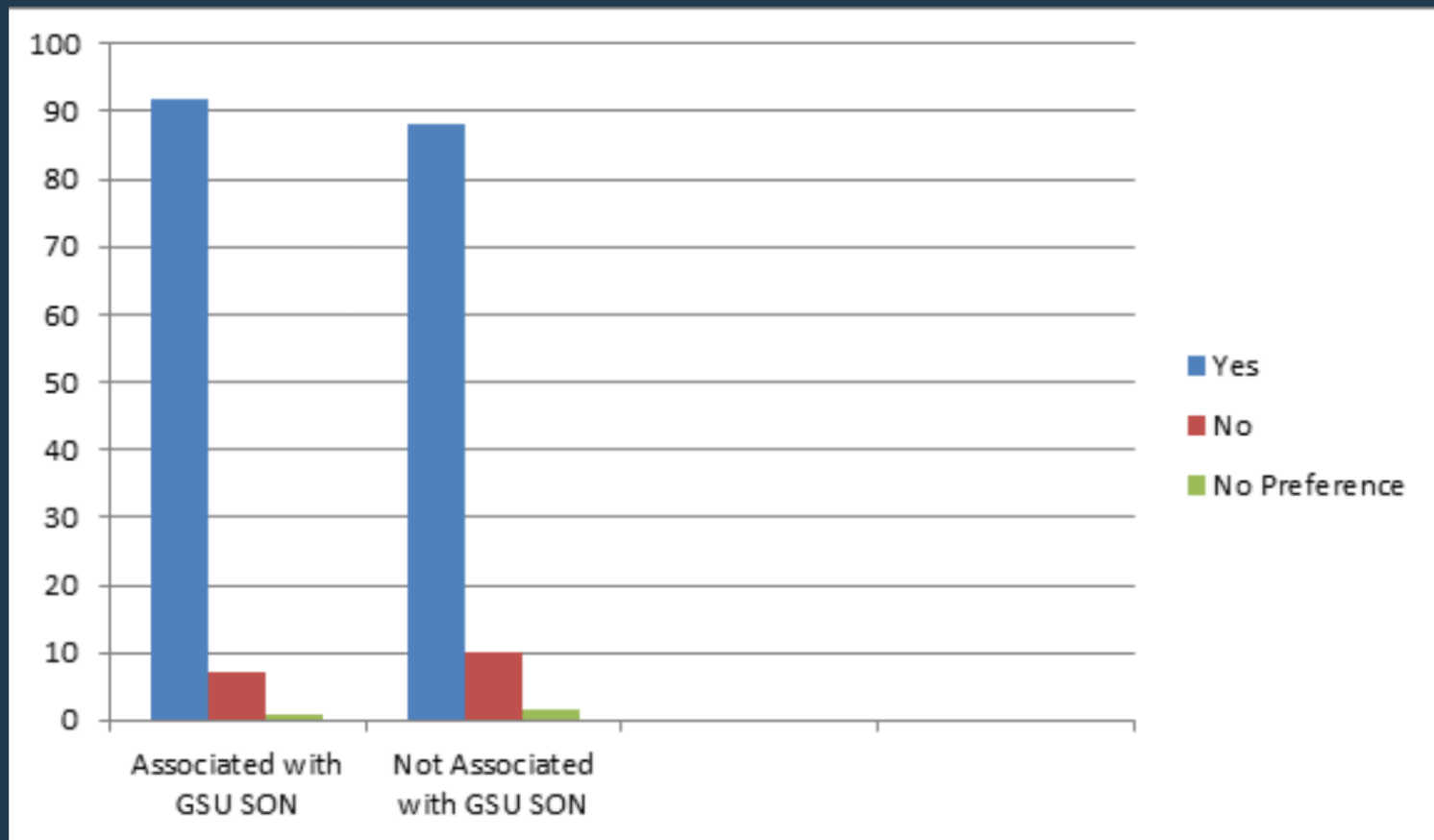
# Preference for Emergency Care



# Desired Education on Nurse Practitioner Roles and Services



# School of Nursing Desired Education on Nurse Practitioner Roles and Services



# *Strengths*

- **Variety of age groups**
- **Wide range of test subjects**
- **Sample size**
- **Survey questions**
  - **Anonymous**
  - **Straightforward**
  - **Provided great amount of information**
  - **Answered our research question and hypotheses**

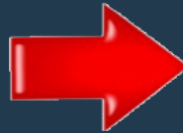


# *Limitations*

- Questionnaire wording/structure
- Question about insurance coverage
- Self-reported
- Small population of older adults
- Lack of compliance when stating age

# Implications

34.2% stated NP's were never allowed to write prescriptions and 58.4% stated NP's can never practice independently.



More **education** and **promotion programs** are needed to establish the scope of practice of NP's.

66.7% of elderly and 55% of middle aged participants prefer NP's for generalized care.



More education is needed **for the baby boomer generation**, which will be over 70 million by 2025, that NP roles are on the rise over MD, with an estimated 94% increase over the next 10 years.

Over 87% in all age groups preferred MD's for emergency care.



Promote education among **nursing students** on the different types of NP's through classroom education and clinical shadowing.

# *Conclusions and Recommendations*

## *Conclusion*

- No preference on choosing a nurse practitioner or medical doctor
- Population wants information on nurse practitioner services and roles
- Important for us as nurses because many of us will go on to become nurse practitioners

## *Recommendations*

- Education on the roles of NP
- Revise questionnaire
- Study could focus more on tasks and responsibilities of NP
- Future research could use data that can be reported and verified, over self-reported data.

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# Thank You!

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